

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-22 in the application. In previous responses, the Applicants have amended Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 15 and 19. No claims have been cancelled or added. Accordingly, Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,528,513 to Vaitzblit, *et al.* (Vaitzblit). More specifically, the Examiner asserts Vaitzblit teaches managing multitasking in a processor including acknowledging events based on code of a currently-active context as recited in Claims 1 and 8 since Vaitzblit teaches “code indicating a period.” (Examiner’s Final Action, page 2). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Vaitzblit teaches a communications system that includes a system scheduler for general purpose, real time and isochronous tasks. The system includes periodic timers that are used to identify each distinct period of admitted isochronous tasks. (Column 4, lines 45-47). Though the Applicants do not find “code indicating a period” in the cited text of Vaitzblit, the periodic information from the timers is used for acknowledging events. Additionally, the periodic information is not code of currently-active context as recited in independent Claims 1 and 8. As stated previously, Vaitzblit teaches general purpose, real-time and the isochronous tasks. (Column 3, lines 27-33). Periodic information from a timer is not code of one of these tasks, and, more specifically, is not code of a currently active one of these tasks. Thus, Vaitzblit does not teach each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 8.

Since Vaitzblit does not teach each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 8, Vaitzblit does not anticipate Claims 1 and 8 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the §102(b) rejection with respect to Claims 1-4 and 8-11.

II. Rejection of Claims 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaitzblit in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,454 to Dummermuth, *et al.* (Dummermuth). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As recognized by the Examiner, Dummermuth and Vaitzblit, individually or in combination, fail to teach activating contexts corresponding to background tasks based on instructions executed by each of the background tasks wherein each of the background tasks accomplishes an equal amount of work before a cycle of background processing repeats as recited in Claims 5 and 12. (Examiner's Final Action, page 3). Additionally, Vaitzblit or Dummermuth do not suggest each background task accomplish an equal amount of work before a cycle of background processing repeats. Vaitzblit does not even teach instruction counts but instead is directed to time slice scheduling. Dummermuth is cited to teach instruction counts but teaches away from an equal amount of work before each background processing cycle repeats since Dummermuth controls the number of instructions in each task so that a given task may be ensured complete execution prior to task switching to coordinate between tasks. (Column 8, line 66 to Column 9, line 12). The number of instructions is a predetermined number that depends on the task and is selected to substantially complete the execution of the task. (Column 10, lines 8-14). The number of

instructions executed for each task, therefore, vary depending on the task such that the tasks do not accomplish an equal amount of work before a cycle of background processing repeats as recited in dependent Claims 5 and 12.

Thus, Vaitzblit and Dummermuth both teach away from an equal amount of work before each background processing cycle repeats since Vaitzblit is directed to time slice scheduling and Dummermuth teaches completion of tasks. Background tasks, therefore, accomplishing an equal amount of work before a cycle of background processing repeats would not be obvious to one skilled in the art from the cited references Vaitzblit and Dummermuth. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claims 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and request the Examiner withdraw the rejection with respect to these claims.

III. Rejection of Claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaitzblit in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,239,652 to Seibert, *et al.* ("Seibert"). As argued previously, Vaitzblit does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 8. Furthermore, Seibert has not been cited to cure the deficiencies of Vaitzblit but to teach placing a processor in an idle state. (Examiner's Final Action, page 4). Since neither Vaitzblit nor Seibert, individually or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 8, the combination of Vaitzblit and Seibert fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claims 1 and 8 and dependent Claims 6 and 13 which include the elements of Claims 1 and 8, respectively. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection

of Claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and request the Examiner withdraw the rejection with respect to these claims.

IV. Rejection of Claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaitzblit in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,659 to McLain, Jr. *et al.* As discussed previously, Vaitzblit does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 8. Furthermore, McLain has not been cited to cure the deficiencies of Vaitzblit but to teach vectoring. (Examiner's Final Action, page 4). Since neither Vaitzblit nor McLain, individually or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 8, the combination of Vaitzblit and McLain fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claims 1 and 8 and dependent Claims 7 and 14 which include the elements of Claims 1 and 8, respectively. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and request the Examiner withdraw the rejection with respect to these claims.

V. Rejection of Claims 15-18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 15-18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaitzblit in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,713,038 to Motomura. As discussed previously, Vaitzblit does not teach or suggest managing multitasking in a processor including acknowledging events based on code of a currently-active context as claimed in independent Claim 15. Furthermore, Motomura does not cure the deficiencies of Vaitzblit but has been cited to teach the

use of a plurality of registers. (Examiner's Final Action, page 5). Since Vaitzblit does not teach each and every element of independent Claim 15 and Motomura does not cure its deficiencies, then the combination of Vaitzblit and Motomura does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claim 15 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claims 15-18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and request the Examiner withdraw the rejection with respect to these claims.

VI. Rejection of Claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaitzblit and in further view of Dummermuth, Motomura, Seibert, McClain or a combination thereof. As discussed previously, Vaitzblit does not teach or suggest managing multitasking in a processor including acknowledging events based on code of a currently-active context as claimed in independent Claim 15. Furthermore, Dummermuth, Motomura, Seibert, McClain or a combination thereof does not cure the deficiencies of Vaitzblit.

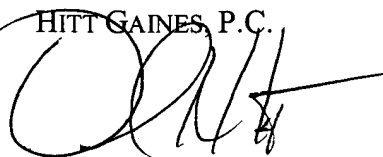
Since Vaitzblit does not teach each and every element of independent Claim 15 and Dummermuth, Motomura, Seibert, McClain or a combination thereof does not cure its deficiencies, then the Examiner can not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent Claims 19-21 which includes each and every element of Claim 15. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and request the Examiner withdraw the rejection with respect to these claims.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-22. The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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